

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

- 1        Claim 1. (Amended) A method of producing elastomer masterbatch, comprising:  
2                      feeding a continuous flow of first fluid comprising elastomer latex to a  
3                      mixing zone of a coagulum reactor defining an elongate coagulum zone extending  
4                      from the mixing zone to a discharge end;  
5                      feeding a continuous flow of second fluid comprising particulate filler  
6                      under pressure to the mixing zone of the coagulum reactor to form a mixture with  
7                      the elastomer latex, the mixture passing as a continuous flow to the discharge end  
8                      and the particulate filler being effective to coagulate the elastomer latex, wherein  
9                      feeding of the second fluid against [mixing of the first fluid and] the second fluid  
10                     within the mixing zone is sufficiently energetic to substantially completely  
11                     coagulate the elastomer latex with the particulate filler prior to the discharge end;  
12                     and  
13                      discharging a substantially continuous flow of elastomer masterbatch from  
14                      the discharge end of the coagulum reactor.

- 1        Claim 8. (Amended) A continuous flow method of preparing elastomer masterbatch of  
2        particulate filler dispersed in elastomer, comprising:  
3            A) establishing a continuous, semi-confined flow of [mixed] combined  
4            elastomer latex and particulate filler under pressure in a coagulum reactor forming  
5            an elongate coagulum zone extending with progressively increasing cross-sectional  
6            area from an entry end to a discharge end, by simultaneously  
7            (i) feeding elastomer latex fluid continuously to a mixing zone at the  
8            entry end of the coagulum reactor, and  
9            (ii) entraining the elastomer latex fluid into particulate filler fluid by  
10           feeding the particulate filler fluid as a continuous jet into the mixing zone